

## Publications Committee

**Committee Members:** B. H. Blake, R. M. Brigham, G. Ceballos, C. T. Chimimba, W. L. Gannon, R. D. Gettinger, M. S. Hafner, F. Geiser, M. J. Hamilton, K. M. Helgen, E. J. Heske, D. S. Jacobs, J. L. Koprowski, C. Krajewski, E. A. Lacey, D. M. Leslie, Jr. (Chair), B. K. Lim, M. B. Main, J. E. Maldonado, R. A. Medellín, J. F. Merritt, E. A. Mueller, P. R. Owen, W. F. Perrin, R. A. Powell, E. A. Rickart, P. T. Stapp, R. A. Sweitzer, C. C. Voigt, J. M. Waterman, J. A. Yunger.

### **Mission:**

The Publications Committee oversees the Society's publications, including the *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Mammalian Species*, and Special Publications. The Committee sets editorial policy for the Society and nominates editors for approval by the Board of Directors. The Committee is typically composed of current editors, who are involved in reviewing and accepting papers and the technical production of the publications.

### **Information Items:**

(1) Highlights of activities of the Publication Committee included: (a) presentation of ASM's publication history and current strategies at the Allen Press Editorial Workshop in Lawrence, Kansas, October 2007; (b) preparation and implementation of new guidelines and protocols for *Mammalian Species*, including options for preparing a full or simplified synonymy, involvement of the Nomenclature Committee in the review of synonymies, inclusion of more color images (behavior, habitat, etc.), videos, and audio clips, as approved in the peer-review process, inclusion of new unpublished skeletal data, standard subsection headings to ease organization and usability, open-access option upon publication; (c) implementation of AllenTrack for online submission and peer review of *Mammalian Species*; (d) engagement of past Editors Blake, Merritt, and Leslie to assist with editing during the transition of *Mammalian Species* to new guidelines and online submission; (e) testing the print-on-demand environment by assisting the Archives Committee with printing *Mammalian Species* accounts from 2006–2007 for dissemination to archival institutions; and (f) working with the Informatics Committee to highlight open-access articles from the *Journal of Mammalogy* at ASM website (open-access articles have increased from 3 in 2005 to 10 in 2007).

(2) The Publication Committee will lose 3 Associate Editors of the *Journal of Mammalogy* and 2 Associate Editors of *Mammalian Species* in June: for *JM*, Gerardo Ceballos (3 yrs), Christian Chimimba (2 yrs), and Jesús Maldonado (3 yrs), and for *MS*, Ron Gettinger (4 yrs) and Kris Helgen (3 yrs; synonymies). We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and editorial contributions of these colleagues.

(3) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008:

Volume 88 Nos. 1–6; 166 manuscripts published

Volume 89 Nos. 1–5; 133 manuscripts scheduled to be published as of 28 April 2008; 28 manuscripts published in No. 1; 105 manuscripts scheduled for publication in Nos. 2–5 as of 28 April 2008

Number of manuscripts submitted: 394 (compared to 408 last year)

Number of manuscripts accepted: 97 (compared to 118 last year)

Number of manuscripts rejected: 199 (compared to 184 last year)

Rejection rate: 67% (compared to 61% last year)

Handling times:

Volume 88, Nos. 1–6

Submission to acceptance: 191.3 days (6.2 months)

Acceptance to publication: 204.3 days (6.6 months)

Total time: 395.6 days (12.8 months)

Volume 89, Nos. 1–5

Submission to acceptance: 180.9 days (5.8 months)

Acceptance to publication: 231.4 days (7.5 months)

Total time: 412.3 days (13.3 months)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 88, Nos. 1–6: 57% U.S., 8% Canada, 13% Latin America, 22% other countries  
( $n = 166$ )

Vol. 89, Nos. 1–5: 56% U.S., 8% Canada, 16% Latin America, 20% other countries  
( $n = 133$ )

**(4)** Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008:

Total number of accounts published = 4

Accounts sent from Editor to Press not yet published = 8 (published in May)

Time from submission to publication: 3.55 years (range 1.39–7.47 years)

Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to an Associate Editors: 20

Total number of accounts with Associate Editors: 59 (~27 inactive)

Total number of accounts with Editor: 15

Number of new species accounts assigned to authors: 42

Total number of accounts in preparation: 298 (162 overdue)

**(5)** Publication statistics for Special Publications:

No proposals were received.

**Action Items:**

**(1)** New Editors: The Committee seeks Board approval of 5 new Associate Editors:  
*Journal of Mammalogy*: Harald Beck (Towson University), Elizabeth Dumont

(University of Massachusetts), David L. Reed (Florida Museum of Natural History), and Janet Rachlow (University of Idaho) and *Mammalian Species*: David Zegers (Millersville University).

**Respectfully submitted,**  
David M. Leslie, Jr., Chair  
(cleslie@usgs.gov)